

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Claims 1-23 cancelled. Please amend claims 24-26, 31-33, and 37-40 as follows:

1-23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A pickup for a musical instrument, the pickup comprising:

a first wire coil;

a second wire coil disposed proximate the first wire coil;

~~at least one~~ a plurality of magnet pole pieces disposed at least partially within both the first wire coil and the second wire coil; and

a ferromagnetic plate substantially planar over an entire surface thereof disposed in a substantially magnetically neutral location between the first and second wire coils.

25. (Currently amended) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the ferromagnetic plate generally separates magnetic lines of force of a north pole of the magnet pole pieces(s) from magnetic lines of force of a south pole of the magnet(s).

26 (Currently amended) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein:

the magnet pole pieces comprise elongated magnets; and

the ferromagnetic plate is oriented substantially perpendicularly with respect to the magnet pole piecess and is disposed substantially midway between opposite ends ~~of the magnets~~ thereof.

27 (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the ferromagnetic plate comprises a single, uniformly flat ferromagnetic plate.

28. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, further comprising:
- a first bobbin about which the first wire coil is disposed; and
- a second bobbin about which the second wire coil is disposed.
29. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the first wire coil is disposed generally above the second wire coil.
30. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the first wire coil and the second wire coil are substantially matched to one another and are oppositely wound.
31. (Currently amended) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the ferromagnetic plate does not connect to any ferromagnetic portion that extends upwardly to the elevation of the upper end portions of the magnet pole pieces(s).
32. (Currently amended) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the ferromagnetic plate does not connect to any ferromagnetic portion that extends downwardly to the elevation of the lower end portions of the magnet pole pieces(s).
33. (Currently amended) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the ferromagnetic plate does not connect to any ferromagnetic portion that extends upwardly to the elevation of the upper end portions of the magnet pole pieces(s) and wherein the ferromagnetic plate does not connect to any ferromagnetic portion that extends downwardly to the elevation of the lower end portions of the magnet pole pieces(s).
34. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, further comprising:
- a first bobbin having two longitudinal sides, the first wire coil being disposed about the first bobbin;

a second bobbin having two longitudinal sides, the second wire coil being disposed about the second bobbin; and

a pair of steel plates attached to both longitudinal sides of one of the bobbins and extending toward the other bobbin past the ferromagnetic plate and not in physical or electrical contact therewith.

35. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the ferromagnetic plate has a thickness of between approximately 0.125 inch and approximately 0.187 inch.

36. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the ferromagnetic plate has a thickness of at least 0.100 inch.

37. (Currently amended) A pickup for a musical instrument, the pickup comprising:

a first wire coil;

a first bobbin about which the first wire coil is disposed;

a second wire coil;

a second bobbin about which the second wire coil is disposed;

a ferromagnetic plate substantially planar over an entire surface thereof disposed in a substantially magnetically neutral location between the first wire coil and the second wire coil; and

wherein the first wire coil and the second wire coil are configured so as to create a humbucking effect.

38. (Currently amended) A guitar comprising:

a body;

a pickup disposed upon the body, the pickup comprising:

a first wire coil;

a first bobbin about which the first wire coil is disposed;

a second wire coil;

a second bobbin about which the second wire coil is disposed

a flat ferromagnetic plate substantially planar over an entire surface thereof disposed in a substantially magnetically neutral location between the first wire coil and the second wire coil; and

wherein the first wire coil and the second wire coil are configured so as to create a humbucking effect.

39. (Currently amended) A method for forming a pickup for a musical instrument, the method comprising:

providing a first wire coil positioned on a first bobbin;

providing a second wire coil positioned on a second bobbin;

providing a ferromagnetic plate configured to be substantially planar over an entire surface thereof; and

assembling the first wire coil, the second wire coil and the ferromagnetic plate such that the ferromagnetic plate is disposed in a substantially magnetically neutral location between the first wire coil and the second wire coil.

40. (Currently amended) A method for converting vibrations of strings of a musical instrument into electrical signals representative thereof, the method comprising:

providing a pickup comprising a ferromagnetic plate substantially planar over an entire surface thereof disposed between two wire coils, each coil positioned on a bobbin;

causing at least one string to vibrate so as to vary current in the two wire coils;
and

humbucking the two coils so as to mitigate noise therefrom.